

City of Rowlett

Economic Development Advisory Board

Thursday, March 17, 2011

8:45 A.M.

City Hall Conference Room, 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, TX 75088

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

Todd Gottel called to order the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board at 9:35 A.M. on Thursday, March 17, 2011 at City Hall Conference Room at 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas. In attendance: John Spor, Larry Glick, Mark Garcia, Doug Phillips, Todd Gottel, Drew Howard, Ben White, and Diane Lemmons.

II. Welcome and Introduction. Item 2 on Agenda

Todd Gottel welcomed the board members to the meeting.

III. Consider approval of minutes from December 14, 2010 meeting. Item 3. on Agenda

John Spor motioned to approve December 14, 2010 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Drew Howard. Motion carried.

IV. Receive Garland Independent School District's Update. Item 4 on Agenda

Larry Glick gave an update on the school district. Garland is a model for all school districts in the State of Texas for efficiency. Garland offers more advanced placement classes and does very well with less. The GISD is considering a retirement policy but not expecting layoffs. GISD is not really anticipating any major cuts at all.

V. Receive City Update. Item 5 on Agenda

Todd Gottel explained the reduction in force in City staff. Mr. Gottel explained the challenges we had as part of retirement and benefits. The City is at the bottom of the list with competitiveness in comparable cities. We reduced the cost of living adjustment for retirement from 70 percent to 50 percent and eliminated supplemental death benefits. The number one concern is employees. There have not been any raises in years. We are spending less. Services are higher. We are doing a good job with less. We have 19 vacant positions that are funded. Service levels are not going to be cut. We are participating in regional meetings with other cities. Cities are facing the same issues. A regional meeting was held with Sachse, Rockwall, Garland, Mesquite and Wylie.

VI. Receive Chamber of Commerce Update. Item 6 on Agenda

Mark Garcia gave the update. The Chamber is nearing the end of the fiscal year. It ends in May of each year. Mr. Garcia's term as Chairman will be up and Mr. Barry Young of Oncor will take over as Chairman on May 1, 2010. Annual Job Fair will be held April 6th at the Rowlett Community Centre. Health Fair will be held April 30th. The annual Awards Banquet will be held May 13th. The Board of Directors is working to have the President position filled in 4-5 weeks. The Chamber is considering a candidate forum and is currently looking for a venue. The Rowlett Foundation has been funded \$20,000.

VII. Receive Director's Update. Item 7 on Agenda

Ben White gave a verbal update. This meeting will be the last meeting Mr. White has as Director of Economic Development for the City of Rowlett. Mr. White is the Director of Economic Development for the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce Partnership. The Dover Cliff project has stalled. The potential anchor at this site bought out another chain and stopped any new development. There was general discussion regarding Project Edge.

VIII. Discuss Economic Development Forum. Item 8 on Agenda

Ben White gave the update. There were 100 guests in attendance at this year's Economic Development Forum. The venue looked great. The speaker was Karen Walz, the Project Manager for Vision North Texas 2050. Guests were taking notes during the presentation. The food was good. All comments were positive.

IX. Discuss Small Business Incubator. Item 9 on Agenda

Table until next meeting.

X. Discussion of Upcoming Sustainability Program Presentation by the City Manager. Item 10 on Agenda

General discussion on the My Community, My Money, My Choice campaign to determine what citizens would like to see their tax dollars spent on. Everyone was encouraged to come and given flyers to pass out to friends, family and business owners.

XI. Members of the board may request topics for future agenda meetings. No member of the board or commission may discuss any of the requested subjects until such matter has been properly placed on a posted agenda. Item 13 on Agenda

Allies Day 2011

XII. Public Announcement. Members of the Board and/or staff may make announcements of local or civic events. No member of the board or commission may discuss nor take any action with regard to the announcements.

No announcements were made.


XIII. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned 10:45 A.M.


Robin Tomberlin, Chairman
Doug Phillips

7-13-2011

Date Approved:


Diahe Lemmons, Assigned City Staff